

Prosecutor wants Ray to admit guilt

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — If James Earl Ray doesn't want to die in prison, he should admit he killed Martin Luther King Jr. despite his claims of innocence, a prosecutor said Thursday.

But a lawyer for Ray said that is out of the question.

"James Earl Ray will never admit to a crime he didn't commit," William Pepper said from his office in London.

Ray, 70, pleaded guilty in 1969 to killing King in Memphis on April 4, 1968. He was sentenced to 99 years in prison and has been trying to take back the guilty plea ever since.

Seriously ill with liver disease, Ray last year asked for a medical furlough that allows inmates "in imminent peril of death" to go free.

The application was rejected last year by the state Department of Correction. A second application is being prepared.

F Post 3/24/98